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Thy President's brother

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WASHINGTON—In 1956, Donald Nixon, brother of the vice president and down on his luck, was given a \$205,000 loan from billionaire recluse Howard Hughes to go into the fast-food business. "What about the Hughes loan?" became a rhetorical question which would haunt Richard Nixon in the presidential campaign of 1960 and the gubernatorial campaign of 1962.

The "Khadafy Loan" to Billy Carter, brother of the President—\$220,000 of a promised half-million dollars, fully consummated by April, the collateral for which and the terms of which are as yet unknown—is more than a political conflict of interest; it is a matter of national security.

For the donor is not some fat cat businessman. He is the Master Terrorist of the Middle East, whose country is a safe haven and training ground for political assassins, whose "diplomats" have been expelled from numerous countries for running gunmen across the face of Europe.

Had the Khadafy Loan remained undiscovered until this fall, the Libyan madman would have had a golden hook in the President's brother, a weapon with which to blow the President's campaign out of the water precisely as he once desired—it was rumored—to torpedo the QE 2 in the Mediterranean. In brief, Billy's lucrative deals with the Libyans made him a potential victim of extortion and blackmail.

The question outstanding about this cancer surrounding the heart of the presidency are many:

Why did the Department of Justice dither for 18 months before requiring that Billy Carter register as an "agent of influence" of the Libyan government,

when his financial involvement with the Libyans was total almost a year ago?

How can the White House credibly claim to have been in the dark about Billy's activities or Billy's sweetheart loan?

In March of 1980, U.S. intelligence picked up details of a Libyan plan to penetrate the United States government across the board. Among the targets was said to be an individual of great influence, down on his luck, now connected with the Charter Oil Co.

Yet, 11 months before, in August of 1979, during America's energy crisis, Billy had cut a deal with Charter whereby he would pick up 55 cents on every extra barrel of Libyan oil he could deliver. Billy was to deliver an additional 100,000 barrels a day, which would have left Baby Brother with an income of \$55,000 a day, or a potential \$20 million a year—not bad for a bankrupt gas station operator from Plains.

Interesting, is it not, that the President either did not know about or delayed condemning this incredible deal at the same time he was excoriating Big Oil for profiteering from an energy crisis—the continuance of which would have set up the Family Carter for generations.

Who leaked to Billy Carter the fact that the Justice Department on June 2 suddenly had come across the hard evidence they needed to haul him before a federal grand jury?

The paper trail of intelligence information needs to be followed to every destination; and the telephone records of Billy Carter, his business cronies, their secretaries, the White House Communications Agency, should be subpoenaed to learn (a) who tipped off Billy Carter and (b) what did the President know and when did he know it.